

To the Environment committee
3/7/11
Submitted by
James Smith
Lebanon

I am writing in support of H.B. No. 6262 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT. I am a partner in Cushman farms LP. We own fourteen hundred acres of land, which is the state farmland preservation program. We milk over nine hundred cows and employ 22 people. I have a son who will be attending Cobleskill collage to study dairy management with hopes of coming back to become a partner in the business. I also have two brothers who have kids with similar interest in the business.

This fund from the CIA for the dairy industry is working. Over the last year we have seen an increase in the number of dairy cows in the state. The funds act as an economic stimulus in the local community by paying local venders for fuel, feed, services ect. Our costs for these are greater then farms in the western part of the U.SA.

The CIA fund helps us to compete, allowing us to provide a local source of food for Connecticut

The dairy farms in the state use seventy percent of the open space land. We provide wild life habitat, and a quality of life for the people in the state of Connecticut. The dairy industry needs this funding to help defray the extra cost in of farming here. I ask that you support raised HB 6262 so we can continue to provide the open space, quality of life, jobs and a local supply of food for our state